Mendhar, Poonch, Mandi, Sundarbani, Nowshera, Manjakote, R.S. Pora, Marh, Khour, Bishna, Vijaypur, Samba, Hiranagar, Barnoti, Ghagwal, Karnah, Uri, Boniyar, Gurez, Rohama, Tangdar, Kralpora, Trehgam, Sogam, Khalsi, Nobra, Drass, Shakar, Nyome and Chiktan.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has planned to provide landline connections according to waiting list in these towns.

WLL and MARR based telephones in Uttaranchal

†2252. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones based on WLL and MARR systems in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether there is any proposal regarding conversion of MARR system based telephones into WLL system; and

(c) if so, by when this work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of telephones based on WLL and MARR in Uttaranchal are 23040 and 952 respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir. All the MARR based telephones (village public telephone) are proposed to be replaced by WLL technology.

(c) The work is proposed to be completed progressively by June 2006.

Submarine cable links

2253. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's international leased lines are five times more expensive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that new submarine cable would bring 40-50 per cent annual price decline for international connectivity from India; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) It is difficult to make exact comparison of prices of International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) between India and other countries. Reports received from the user groups indicate that the leased rentals (Tariff) in India for IPLC (Half-Circuit) are higher than those prevalent in more competitive markets. The prices of IPLC depend upon many factors such as availability of various submarine cables, Satellite Bandwidth, Spare Capacity, distance between the two destinations etc.

(c) and (d) Under conditions of competition, markets determine the price and hence it is not possible to predict the extent of changes.

New Policy for Internet

2254 SHRIMATI. S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had announced a new policy for the internet;

(b) if so , the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering on the concept of providing domain names in local languages on the lines of similar systems in China and Taiwan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNCIATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Government has announced a new policy for IN Internet Domain Name Registration.

(b) The policy envisages to make IN Domain Name Registration system open, efficient and market friendly to make it popular and realize larger presence in the internet space. Some of the main features of the new policy are opening of the registration at 2nd and 3rd levels, domain name registration through a channel of Registrar, wholesale domain price for 2nd and 3rd level Rs. 500 and Rs. 250 respectively, a limited sunrise period, a dispute resolution mechanism etc.